



COURSES YEAR ONE

Introduction to Political Science

Objectives

The course Introduction to Political Science offers students a first introduction to the central concepts and questions of Political Science. The core idea is that politics concerns conflict as well as cooperation regarding matters that have to be organised for large groups of people. By using core concepts such as conflict, cooperation, interests and power and a number of key political science questions, students should be able to independently analyse political developments and events. Moreover, this course aims to educate students on the functioning of political systems, introduce important political science theories, and offer students insight into the ways important societal developments have affected politics over the last few decades.

Content

Nation-states are among the main political structures that shape conflict and cooperation. The course therefore extensively focuses on states, state formation, the social reality of nations and nation-states and pathways to democratisation. It will discuss the origins of various modern democratic and semi-democratic states, including the Netherlands and the United States, but also other European and non-European countries.

Based on systematic comparisons of states we will develop an understanding of divisions of power and how conflicts originate and develop within countries. This makes it possible to assess which characteristics are unique to Dutch politics and which elements are part of a broader pattern in democratic societies. One of the more remarkable and recent features has been the fragmentation and instability of the party-political landscape. Did voters become detached from party politics, or are we dealing with logical consequences of a societal development that has been going on for decades?

Numerous actors play a part in political processes. The course will specifically examine the role of political parties, interest groups, voters, and the media in contemporary democracies. Notwithstanding the overall importance of states, they do not single-handedly shape the way conflict and cooperation originate and develop over time.

Moreover, the position of the state is challenged by the emergence of trans-national institutions such as the European Union, or economic developments usually discussed under the umbrella of globalisation or trans-nationalisation. Therefore we also examine the various ways in which different political structures – including states – are subject to change.

History of the Modern World since 1750

Learning objectives

- Students gain knowledge and understanding of the political and economic structures and cultural repertoires and practices that underlie the transnational historical genesis and development of modernity.
- Students develop knowledge and understanding of various historiographical interpretations and models of explaining in the history of the modern world since 1750.
- Students are able to apply historical concepts and explanations to phenomena and processes in the history of the modern world since 1750.
- Students are able to relate historical concepts, processes and phenomena.
- Students are able to analyse the role of historical concepts, processes and phenomena in the broader context of political and economic structures and cultural repertoires.
- Students are able to judge the cultural repertoires used by historical actors in their political and socio-economic context.
- Students are able to critically reflect on certain important historiographical debates in the history of the modern world since 1750.
- Students are able to write an essay concerning central questions in the history of the modern world since 1750.

Content

This module encompasses the history of the modern world since 1750, with special attention for the transnational historical genesis and development of modernity in Europe and the Netherlands. It provides historical context and knowledge for modules in the Bachelor of Political Science programme.

The first part of the module concerns lectures on the historical period from 1750 until the First World War. Central topics in this period are the genesis of the modern (national) state, parliamentary democracy in the Western World and the development of industrial capitalism and its socioeconomic consequences. Through technological changes, international and transnational developments, modernisation would spread across the globe. Special attention is given to these political and socio-economic developments in the Netherlands. Haunted by the rise of modern nationalism, economic rivalries and imperialism, European states and their colonies got tangled in a World War that had no equal in human history.

The second part of the module starts with the consequences of the Great War for the national and international politics of the states and societies that were involved. The rise of totalitarian dictatorships of the Left and Right, Stalinism and fascism, the outbreak of the Second World War and in its wake, the Cold War would give societies and international relations new characteristics and dynamics. The case of the Netherlands will again be given special attention against the backdrop of these developments. The course ends with the Fall of the Berlin Wall and its far reaching consequences with which the world, Europe and the Netherlands entered a new millennium.

Public Policy and Governance

Learning objectives

On completion of this course, students are familiar with the organisation and functioning of public administration, and the inter-linkage between policy and politics. They are able to understand and analyse the policy process from a political science perspective. They can connect insights into how policy conflicts can manifest themselves to insight into the changing relationships between public administration and society. Students are familiar with a set of challenges ('hollowing out of the state', 'dislocation of politics', 'participatory society', the 'unknown society') that public administration/governance faces at the beginning of the 21st century. Students can reflect on the way in which knowledge plays a role in solving, as well as in the formulation of policy issues, and on how law plays a role in the regulation of administrative conflicts. Moreover, students can use the acquired knowledge to write and critically reflect on current political or administrative cases, and do this based on different theoretical approaches.

Content

Politics is, impartially, almost always a competition for policy change. 'Policy' stands for reasoned attempts to steer society. Think of the discussions on various topics, such as integration, international stability, controlling the costs of health care, or concerns over climate change: The continuous debate exists on how to solve problems within society and what the role of the state and "Europe" and supranational organisations should be and can be. Different parties - both inside and outside the formal political process, and at all levels (local, regional, national and supranational) - give their view on what issues need political attention, and suggest solutions. Who or what ultimately determines the content of the political agenda? Which view becomes dominant in the development of policy? And if policy is implemented, who decides if the policy measures are effective?

Furthermore, the course Public Policy and Governance covers the content of the political system and how this system relates to other processes of political judgement and decision-making, and to what extent this translates into institutional design. The course begins with formulating a few key questions: To what extent is society "malleable"? Is it possible to make adjustments within the social dynamics? And to what extent is intervention in society legitimised? To what extent may the government exert influence? Subsequently, it outlines how public policy and governance (in the Netherlands, as well as in Europe) are designed, how decisions are taken, within what framework this is happening, and which management tools and logic are applied in the process. The questions are approached from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. In each lecture, a concrete social problem will be discussed as a practical starting point to clarify theoretical insights and analytical approaches. Gradually, this problem-oriented approach sheds light on how our current juncture with all her

complexities in the world of government and policy, becomes even more complex because of processes of trans nationalisation, bureaucratisation, privatisation, the changing role of the media, and continued technologisation. This course invites students to think about how - in a constantly changing environment - governments can, together with other parties, continue to steer social dynamics effectively and legitimately.

Tutorial semester one

Requirements and learning objectives

- Possess a basic set of general academic skills including planning, learning/studying, taking notes, exams, reading.
- Being able to write short academic texts, which meet the requirements of design, structure, style and use of references.
- Being able to orally express yourself in an academic manner, through group discussions and debates, and by giving an academic presentation.
- Acquire analytical skills, such as being able to compare, explain, classify, combine and conclude. Students should for this purpose also be familiar with key concepts within political science and be aware of the importance of using them to denote social issues.
- Gain insight/ understanding of the five substantive lines that connect the tutorials with each other, namely (1) politics versus political science, (2) political science in the broadest sense, (3) political science versus other disciplines, (4) the study of political science versus the discipline of political science and (5) Political science as a science.

Content

The primary goal of this tutorial is to equip one/you with a basic set of academic skills that will not only enable you to participate in university education, but are also important for your development as a professional.

Students as well as modern professionals should be able to translate extensive and complex tasks into a good outcome, whether it is writing a paper or a thesis, or writing a procurement plan. Responsibility, independence and the ability to plan are important skills. In this tutorial we focus on these competences and we provide support in the transition from your previous education into an academic environment. For example, we frequently study academic texts, so you learn to analyse these independently. In addition, critical thinking, which is also aimed at problem solving, is central throughout the course.

The ability to articulate and convey your ideas, both in writing and orally, is essential and will be of great use later on in life. After all, if you are not able to (convincingly) convey your ideas, the impact will remain limited. To this end, we in academia, take account of certain conventions with regard to style, structure and the use of citations. In this tutorial, we pay attention to these conventions and abilities, so as to provide you with a strong arsenal of means to express yourself.

First, you will put together a portfolio based on six short essays, each of which pays attention to a different aspect of writing and become increasingly more complex. These aspects include summarising other peoples' ideas, conceptualising, applying theory, comparing and putting forward a coherent argument. You will receive feedback on each assignment. You can put this feedback directly to use for the next assignment.

Besides academic writing, oral skills are of great importance in political science. We will discuss and practice this in several ways. Each participant will, in collaboration with a fellow student, give a brief academic presentation. Moreover (group) discussions and debates are frequently held and play a central role in the course. In addition to this,

students will work together in small groups and learn to form new conclusions and, based on these, share their insights by giving a presentation.

All these skills will help you to structure and convey your knowledge. But how do you acquire all this knowledge? This touches on the most interesting, but also the most complicated aspect of academic skills: analytical skills. How can you use existing concepts and theories to describe certain social problems? Part of performing analysis is selecting information, comparing data and theories and drawing (innovative) conclusions. In doing this, we draw upon your originality and creativity, but do not despair: you can learn how to analyse. We practice this with class-assignments, your portfolio, and in discussions and presentations.

The subjects we discuss are related to: Introduction to Political Science (September, October, November and December) History of the Modern World (September and October), Public Policy and Governance (November and December). During this period, you will deepen your understanding of the material covered in the lectures, because the assignments force you to explicitly acquaint yourself with the material and to make connections. Nevertheless, the tutorials are not intended to be just exam preparation, but are meant to train specific academic skills. It is for this reason that you will earn credits (EC's) separately from the lecture courses.

Five major topics connect the separate tutorial meetings. These topics are meant to give you more insight into your study programme, the field of political science, and academia in general: (1) Politics versus political science: it is obvious that they are not the same, but what is political science to politics and politics to political science? This starts with the question: what is politics? (2) Political science in the broadest sense: gain knowledge of the sub-disciplines within the broad discipline of political science. (3) Political science versus other disciplines. What is the role of political science (as a discipline) vis-à-vis politics, compared to the media and other disciplines? (4) The degree programme of political science versus the discipline of political science. The term political science is used for your degree programme, but also for the academic discipline. (5) Political science as a science: What is a science? When is something 'scientific'? What is a theory? Learn to understand the importance of theories and concepts within political science. Concepts are tools used by academics to understand the phenomena that they study. Power is a very important concept within political science.

Research project 1

Learning objectives

Upon completing this course, students will

- have gained experience with and insight into the research cycle:
 - Formulating a research question
 - Constructing a research design
 - Identifying, getting access to and analysing data
 - Report results (in writing, visually and orally)
- be able to critically reflect on one's own work
- be able to translate conceptual topics from the lectures into research.
- have acquired team-working skills and the ability to reflect upon this team-work
- be able to successfully execute responsibilities that have been assigned by the group to the individual student

Content

During the project in January, you will be immersed in the world of political science research. As many before you have experienced it, this might, for you and your group feel like being thrown in at the deep end. At the end of the month, you and your group will resurface with a finished research paper which you will present. This research project is probably the most exciting part of your first year, and it is the part when students are entrusted with the most responsibility.

Why all this? Why do *research*? Political scientists, including first year students, have the tendency to be just a little too sure of themselves, to think they have figured out the world. This is not always based on or supported by good arguments and reliable empirical data, even though this should be the case. The aim of this project is to get students acquainted with social scientific research. Doing research is *the* scientific way of arguing.

Why so much responsibility? Trial and error is the best way of learning: try, try, try again. During this project, you learn research methods and practice by actually doing research. You learn to formulate a research question, to collect and evaluate data, to work with deadlines and under time pressure. Team-work and managing a group are important skills that you will also learn.

The research topic will be chosen by each group during the tutorial given in the first semester (in period two). Your group will develop a comprehensive research question and subquestions, based on this chosen topic. To answer these questions you will collect data/information in subgroups. It is important that you learn how to order/organise information and explain and convey it to others. In the end, you will bundle the results in a research paper which you will present to the group.

During the last two days, a jury, consisting of political science staff and a member of the study association Machiavelli, will judge the projects. Prizes will be awarded for the best presentation and the best research.

Introduction to Political Science Research

Learning objectives

On completion of the course Introduction to Political Science Research students can:

- Define concepts that are central to methodology
- List the differences and similarities between qualitative and quantitative research
- Distinguish between the stages of the research cycle
- Choose, based on the formulation of the problem and research question, which method(s) of data collection and analysis to adopt.
- Perform simple statistical analyses with the help of SPSS-software
- Conduct simple research based on interviews
- Interpret statistical results
- Interpret results based on interviews

Content

Empirical political science, is political science that can be tested using experience, observation and experiment. Empirical research is a challenging process aimed at making statements about reality. These statements can influence how we perceive reality, but also directly influence government policy. During the first research project, students have gained experience in formulating a research question that can be (empirically) researched by using data and methods to answer the research question. The course Introduction to Political Science Research, builds upon this. We will discuss research methods that make it possible to make statements about social reality in a responsible manner. We will look into processes and methods that enable political scientists to develop concepts and theories, and to verify theories empirically. Empirical research is an important part of political science. For that reason, this course is an obligatory course in the study programme. The many choices that have to be made in the process of doing research, make it necessary to discuss the research-process as an independent process, as well as in relation to substantive political science questions. Central to the course is the development of an 'inquisitive mind' that is able to tackle substantive questions. The lectures and tutorials will pay considerable attention to the empirical research process, specifically, the research process as practised in the broad field of political science. Later on during your study programme, a more specialised understanding of the separate stages of the research process is developed. Besides general research methodology, relevant topics from the philosophy of science and explicit and implicit assumptions of research methods are discussed.

History of Political Thought

Learning objectives

- Gain knowledge of the most important contributions of the classical political philosophers and the evolution of core concepts in the history of political thought (legitimacy, state and politics, rights and duties, citizenship, liberty and democracy).
- Gain knowledge of the historical context within which these concepts have developed.
- Acquire the skill to critically reflect on the consistency and the normative axioms of the political philosophers discussed in this course.

Content

Why do we have to obey the state (and should we?). Do states vary in their degree of legitimacy? Where should state power stop? Political philosophers have wrestled with these and other questions for ages. During this course, you will be introduced to the most important political philosophers within the western tradition ranging from Plato to Marx. You will learn to understand their answers to these existential questions from within their historical context. In addition, you will acquire the skills to evaluate their ideas from a normative perspective.

International Relations

Learning objectives

Students who have successfully completed this course, will have gained an understanding of, and insight into: (a) the changing nature of conflict and cooperation within international relations – and across Europe; (b) what we think of and how we think about international relations at different times in history; (c) the most important schools of thought and theories within the field of international relations in the 20th century (realism/neorealism, idealism/neoliberalism, English School, social constructivism, post-positivism). Moreover, students will be able to comprehend the most urgent international issues and challenges (war and peace, development and underdevelopment, the Cold War, foreign policy of great powers, globalisation, integration and fragmentation, international organisations), as well as the most important aspects of European integration (history, theories of European integration, institutional structure, different E.U. policy competences).

After taking this course, students will be able to critically reflect upon theories and interpretations of international relations; they will be able to evaluate the ideas of state and non-state actors from the perspective of their social interests and positions, and from a historical perspective; finally, they will be able to take a position on international issues by adopting a multi-disciplinary approach (when it is useful, connections between political, economic, and cultural processes will be made; insights from historiography, sociology, international (and comparative) political economy and international law will be used in addition to insights from political science and the field of international relations).

Content

The central theme of the course is the interplay between historic developments and theorising of international relations. The subjects range from historic thinkers such as Machiavelli, who developed a theory of practical power politics against the background of warring North Italian city states during the 16th century, to contemporary thinkers such as Wallerstein, who, by studying the same period, developed a theory of shifting power constellations of states based on economic interconnectedness.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part concerns the rise and decline of Europe as the centre of the capitalist world economy. How did the process of state formation in Europe evolve? How did first Portugal, succeeded by Spain, then the Netherlands, and other countries, become part of an emerging capitalist world economy? How do processes of economic, political, and cultural hegemony intertwine in space-time? How does thinking on international relations evolve? The second part concerns the decline of Eurocentric world-politics and the rise of the American century. To do so, the second part of the course focuses on some core issues in international relations. What was the background of the Cold War? What is the relationship between state formation in the so called Third World and the international division of labour? What is the role of international organisations in the international system? What new challenges to security emerged after the Cold War? How can we understand the rise of the so called BRICs? We will discuss the post-war process of European integration, if relevant, in this second part. Topics such as the Common Agricultural Policy, Economic and Monetary Union, Common Foreign and Security policy, and the addition of Central and Eastern European states to the E.U. will be also discussed.

Tutorial Semester Two

Learning objectives

- Deepening of the skills acquired in the tutorial of the first semester, i.e. (1) general academic skills (study skills, as well as classification, comparing, arguing), (2) writing skills (writing an essay, citing), and (3) oral skills (presenting and debating)
 - The ability to thoroughly understand relevant material, and relate this to other material and/or current events;
 - The ability to distinguish good from bad arguments (put forward in writing or orally) and be able to put forward a coherent argument yourself;
 - The ability to function as part of a group and to individually contribute towards the group effort, and the ability to self-reflect. This is trained by:
 - Participating in debates, dialogues/conversations and discussions. And by taking different roles in these settings (debater, discussion leader, member of the jury, the public, etc.)
 - Carrying out exercises and written assignments
 - Evaluating and reconstructing argumentation structures.
 - Central in all of this is the ability to structure (your writing, arguments, work, planning, etc.)

Content

The tutorials (maximum 25 participants) deepen the skills specific to political science, as well the general academic skills that have been discussed in the tutorials of the first semester. The tutorials deepen the students' understanding of the material covered in the courses History of Political Thought (period 4) and International Relations (period 5).

A central aim of the tutorials is to help students towards working independently. This relates to: (a) study-planning - there is only one meeting per week, forcing students to work independently, and to (b) writing assignments. Compared to those of the first semester, the assignments are more extensive and require more independence on the part of the students in interpreting and executing them. In addition to this, the tutorials prepare the students for their second year of study.

Law and Politics

Learning goals objectives?

- Learning to understand and apply law as a political resource, encompassing legal avenues, legal argumentation, and law as a conflict resolution mechanism
- Understanding law making as a political process, including parliamentary law, local law, treaty negotiations, jurisprudence and customary law
- Understanding the key term: 'rule of law'; interpretation thereof in different legal systems; encompassing human rights; separation of powers; constitutions; accountability and good governance
- Understanding the key term 'jurisdiction', encompassing citizenship, sovereignty, monism & dualism
- Becoming acquainted with the political and historical context of law, different trajectories in different states

Content

This course gives political scientists the opportunity to experience the interaction between law and politics by 'doing law': fulfilling assignments in which they are required to give legal advice, and given the tools to do so, in cases of great political salience. Students deliver briefs for imagined clients who experience the same legal problems in different European legal systems. Through this active engagement, they become familiar with basic principles as well as comparative differences in citizenship law, fair trial rights, civil litigation, administrative law and human rights law. Moreover, they gain an understanding of law as a product, an instrument or as a constraint of political processes.